

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00641 171154 Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

NIC-01 GAC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /100 W

----- 082158

R 171115 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHREST

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0641

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, HU, PDCV

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES FOLLOWING PETOFI DAY COMMERATION

1. IN A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE MARCH 17 HUNGARIAN PRESS AGENCY MTI HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT " SEVERAL HUNDRED IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS ATTEMPTED TO STAGE A NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL BUDAPEST" FOLLOWING PETOFI DAY COMMERATION ON MARCH 15 OF 125 TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGARY' S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING TO MTI DEMONSTRATORS WERE DISPERSED QUICKLY BY POLICE AND 41 PERSONS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. THREE SENTENCE STORY APPEARS ON FRONT PAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS AND IN MID PAGES OF LEADING HUNGARIAN DAILIES. IN ADDITION, DEMONSTRATION WAS ALSO REPORTED ON TELEVISION EVENING NEWS MARCH 16.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN BUDAPEST ON PETOFI DAY HAVE BECOME SOMETHING OF A RITE OF SPRING IN RECENT YEARS AND THIS ONE

NOT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. WHAT STRIKES US AS UNUSUAL, AND TO BEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OUR MEMORY UNPRECEDENTED, IS FACT THAT A DISTURBANCE OF THIS
TYPE WAS QUICKLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE GOH AND
EVEN GIVEN TELEVISION COVERAGE. THIS QUICK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
SEEMS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO DOWNPLAY DEMONSTRATION BY ATTRIBUTING
IT TO ANTICS OF YOUTHFUL HOOLIGAN ELEMENTS THEREBY HOPEFULLY
AVOIDING CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION DAMAGING TO GOH IMAGE WHICH
APPEARED IN WESTERN PRESS FOLLOWING DISORDERS OF LAST YEAR.
PUHAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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MOSCOW
MULTIPLE
USBERLIN
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